

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action of February 23, 2005, on the above-identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 4-9, 11-14, 19, 23-30, 32-33, and 46 are original. Claims 3, 10, 31, and 52 have been previously presented. Claims 1 and 50 are currently amended. Claims 2, 20-22, 47-49, and 51 have been cancelled. Claims 15-18, 34-45 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication on page 3 of this above-identified Official Action, wherein the Examiner notes that 'the "comprising" language of the claims allows for the presence of materials other than a purification resin in the 'packed section of the recited cartridge.' Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 50 to now contain closed claim language, instead of the above-referenced open claim language.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-14, 19, 23-33, 46, 48, 50, and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Crofts, et al. '665. Applicant respectfully contends that claims 1, 3-14, 19, 23-33, 46, 48, 50, and 52 are not unpatentable over Crofts, et al. '665.

Claim 48 has been cancelled, thereby rendering these rejections moot as pertains to that claim.

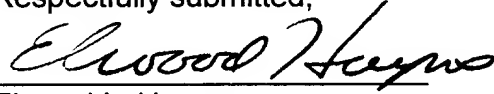
Claims 1 and 50 have been amended to delete the open transition term of "comprising" and to replace it with the closed transition term "consisting of." As this amendment does not allow for the presence of materials other than a purification resin in the 'packed section' of the recited cartridge, this amendment renders the present

invention free of the prior art of record. Therefore, it is believed that the basis of rejection deserves reconsideration and is respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Elwood L. Haynes
Registration No. 55,254

Date: April 11, 2005
Air Liquide
2700 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1800
Houston, Texas 77056
Phone: (713) 624-8956
Fax: (713) 624-8950

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 11th day of April, 2005.



Stacy Forte